MAP – Guidance for Criterion 2: Quality improvement programmes

Advice to Candidates

This section can present problems for some MAP candidates. Some of the issues are described here, to help candidates achieve success.

As with all sections for MAP it is crucial to read the section in the handbook very carefully, and to think and plan in good time. Your evidence may be up to five years old at the date you submit this criterion for assessment.

The methods available are:

- Case review or discussion
- Clinical Audit (Please note it cannot be an audit which is part of QOF or a LES or DES)
- Evaluation of the impact of a health initiative
- Review of clinical outcomes
- Review of the effectiveness of a teaching programme

You should choose only ONE of these methods for this criterion.

What is important is that an outcome can be demonstrated that shows improvement based on standards.

Clinical Audit

Our advice would be to keep it simple, one standard will be sufficient! We want to see that you understand the Audit process and that that is making a difference to patient care rather than a very complex piece of work. Get a colleague to read it when you’ve finished. Does he/she understand it? If they do it’s likely we will! If in doubt about Audit, seek advice from a local advisor early.

General advice

A checklist to consider in the description of a quality improvement activity could be:

- title of the quality improvement activity
- authorship, to make explicit your role and extent of your contribution of the work
- why did you choose this topic? This could include a statement of the problem, a brief summary of relevant literature or guidelines, relevant context, and the priority areas for improvement
- methodology – how you have gone about the project, what information you needed to gather,
- who you have involved, and the process that you decided to adopt in carrying out the project
- baseline data collection, dates of this, and initial analysis
- discussion of findings
- changes put into place by you, or your team or the whole organisation, and how any successful these have could be maintained.